

Q. 1567

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Evidentiary Document No. 5013.

The International
Military Tribunal
for the Far East.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ORS

v

ARAKI, SADAO, AND ORS.

I, Ronald George Williams of Derby in the State of Tasmania, formerly TX2146 Lieutenant Ronald George Williams of 2/40 Aust. Infantry Battalion, make oath and say:-

I was first taken prisoner in Timor on 23 February 1942. In September 1942 I was taken with a number of Australians to Java. We left Java for Singapore on 1st January 1943 and went to Changi where we remained until 21st January, 1943.

From Changi we entrained on 21 January 1943 and arrived at Bangpong, Thailand, on 25 January 1943. The train trip was very bad. We were put into either cattle trucks or rice trucks in small steel compartments, into which over 30 men were crowded. The heat was terrific during the day and it was freezing cold at midnight. There was not sufficient room for the men to lie down. The food was supplied on the railway station and was not particularly bad. We had a lot of malaria on the trip but nobody died.

From Bangpong we went by truck to Taso, up the river. We stayed there overnight and on the following morning left for a place later called Pintok, where we arrived on 27 January 1943. We arrived at about five o'clock in the evening. Up a narrow road the Japanese pointed to the jungle itself and said, "There is your camp." We then had to go to work to hew a camp site out of the jungle; we had to get off the road because of the traffic. The following day we received some tents. Food was very, very poor at this stage. We had more or less plain rice for the two months we were there. We were joined by a large Dutch party who had a lot of cases of dysentery; they had about four or five deaths before we left but we did not have any although some of our party contracted the disease. We were still having trouble with malaria and general malnutrition and beri beri. Up to this time we had found out how to treat tropical ulcers and we had them under control. At this camp we were first employed in clearing a large area in which to build a camp, and then we did repair work on the jungle roads. The hours of work were from eight o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night. We had some sick men who were taken out to work every day. Some men had to go out to work barefooted because they had no boots. Our clothes were practically worn out. After we had built the camp the Australians were in tents but the Dutch were left out in the open with no accommodation whatsoever.

Our next camp was at Kinsioek, where we came under the command of Tanaka. We marched 17 kilometres and arrived there on 18 March 1943, and left with a party of 230 on 1 April 1943. The food was a little better, as we received a small quantity of dried fish; but it was still absolutely inadequate and the men continued to go downhill in health mainly through malnutrition; they were becoming weaker and weaker every day. The accommodation with which we were provided had formerly been a Dutch dysentery hospital, and there were faeces all over the floor. There were some minor beatings in the camp. We went out to work on the railway line and it was here that we first came into contact with the Japanese engineers, whom we nicknamed the "Black Crows". I went out on to the railway lines and tried to talk to the Japanese officer with a view to shortening the hours of work and allowing sick men to rest as well as to provide them with at least half-an-hour for lunch as they were getting only 10 or 20 minutes, but for that I received a decent sort of bashing from the Japanese officer. Sick men were forced to work on the railway line. The reply I received from the Japanese was, "When the Japanese soldiers are sick they must work, so your men will work and also you will work. I refused to work and told him that I was there to look after the men and not to work, and for that I was beaten with a walking cane. The Japanese were standing on the railway embankment throughout the day throwing pieces of rock and dirt at the men if they so much as straightened their backs; they were also hit over the head with bamboo sticks. We did not have any deaths. Medical supplies were very, very limited and clothing likewise was short, as we had had no extra clothing given to us. Our doctors and medical sergeant had the tropical ulcers under control but we had some very bad beri beri cases and perhaps ten of our men who were going blind were evacuated down the line to the hospital. At that time there were 376 men in our party.

From Kinsioek I went with 230 men to clear another piece of jungle at Kinsioek No. 1 Jungle Camp, 10 kilometres down the river. We left on 20 July 1943. The food was at all times very scarce and the men were still going downhill from malnutrition. Accommodation was absolutely appalling; we had 20 and 22 men in a tent, which leaked very much. Men were working from seven o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock at night, when they returned to camp, endeavouring to eat their food in the dark and going to these tents which were absolutely impossible to sleep in owing to the weather. We had a great deal of sickness and dozens of sick men were being forced out to work on the railway line each day. They were beaten if they could not work. The man in charge of that camp was a Japanese named Hori Gunso, who is now dead. The Commander of the camp was still Tanaka, who was really responsible for our treatment. We had our first cholera cases there in July 1943. Eight Australians died from dysentery, malaria and cholera. We had been joined at this camp by a party of 500 Englishmen. Up till their arrival we had had no dysentery in the camp but unfortunately they brought it with them, and it became rife amongst us. Medical supplies were the shortest they had been up to date. We had practically no beatings inside the camp but the engineers were bashing the men all day. The English suffered about 40 deaths in the camp and they

evacuated 350 sick men out of their 500. over the whole period, about 50 or 60 of our men were evacuated. We had great difficulty in getting men evacuated; we would argue with the Japanese for hours about it. At that stage, the men were wearing any old rags they could get; they had no proper clothes and no footwear whatever. Because of this, they contracted some sort of foot-rot and I have actually seen men crawling back into camp at night. Yet the Japanese would not allow them to stop work.

On 20 July 1943 we went back to Kinsick for three days to finish the railway line. This was what the boys called "Three Days of Hell". They used to be made to work from daylight to dark to get the railway line completed. The hours of work were very long and sick men were forced to work; they were even driven out of hospital to work on the railway line. At this camp we had seven deaths from dysentery and cholera; men collapsed on the job with cholera. Tanaka was still directly in charge of us. The guards themselves were all Koreans, the worst of the lot being nicknamed "The 1st Boatman" - Mortuama. Another guard who was in charge of the work parties was Takiyama, also Morimoto. He took part in a lot of the bashings and would generally pick on sick men; he would go through the hospitals and chase out sick men to work. He would bash the boys with his fists and with pieces of stick, from which they had black eyes and bleeding noses and skin knocked off their faces. Medical supplies were very, very limited. There were dozens and dozens of cholera cases. The camp had grown and now contained approximately 1500 or 2000 men; when we came back it was in an absolutely appalling condition; there was mud up to the knees.

We left Kinsick on 24 July 1943 by barge for Kluang Klai, 80 kilometres further up river. We remained there until 8 December 1943. There were 1000 men in the camp, including 120 Australians. In the early stages, the men were suffering very badly from malnutrition but later the food improved; we were given a considerable number of cows and we had some meat each day. Latterly, in this camp it was the best food we had in Thailand. It was the height of the wet season when we arrived there and during the first few weeks we were saturated the whole time, but later we built ourselves a reasonable camp; we had tents with bamboo flooring all the way between the tents so that we could go all over the camp without putting a foot on the ground. We were still engaged on railway work but the hours of work were not so long and the men did not work as hard as they had done before. We still had a lot of malaria and the usual beri beri and malnutrition. The Englishmen were suffering very seriously from tropical ulcers and men were losing their legs. Sick men were being forced out to work - men with very large ulcers. We would get one day's rest with malaria if we were lucky, and unless men had beri beri very badly they were sent out to work. Six men were killed in a landslide. We were made to work in a very dangerous position. I could not get down to the place myself but the Australian sergeant-major who was in charge of the working party repeatedly pointed out the danger of the job but the Japanese would not heed his warning, with the result that 17 of our men were actually caught in the landslide and six killed. The Japanese engineers were entirely to blame for this as the sergeant-major pointed out how the job could be done without the

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attendant danger, but no notice was taken of him. Tanaka was still in charge of the camp. One man died from malaria and one from pneumonia. Medical supplies were still insufficient. We did not receive any vitamins of any sort and the men still suffered from malnutrition. We had an issue of rubber boots there and a small quantity of Dutch clothes. Up to this time a lot of men had been evacuated to the base hospitals on account of tropical ulcers, cholera, dysentery and pneumonia. When we went back down the river we had 98 men left.

The railway line was joined in Thailand on 17 October 1943.

Sworn before me at Launceston)
in the state of Tasmania this)
24th day of September 1946)

(Signed) RON G. WILLIAMS.

(Signed) A.J. MURPHY, J.P.

old

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行ツタ。私達ハ其處デ一晩明カシ次ノ朝ソノ後一ヒ
ントツクート呼ベレタ場所へ出掛ケタ。
其處へ着イタノハ一九四三年一月二十七日デアツタ。
夕方五時頃到着シタガ日本人ハ疾イ道ノ上ニアルジ
ヤングルヲ指サシテ「アソコガオ前道ノキヤンプダト
云ツタ。ソレカラ私達ハジヤングルヲ切り開イテキ
ヤンプノ敷地ヲ作ラナケレバナラナカツタ。私達ハ人通
リガアルノテ道ヲ選ケナケレバナラナカツタ。次ノ
日私達ハテント敷組ヲ貰ツタ。此ノ時期ノ食事ハ恐
ロシク貧弱ダツタ。私達ハ其處ニ居タ二ヶ月間ニ殆
ンドオオネシノ御飯ダケヲ貰ツタ。
赤痢患者ノ澤山居ルオランダ人ノ大キナ一口ガ私達
ニ加ツタ。彼等ノウチ四、五人ハ私達ト別レル迄ニ
死亡シタガ私達ノ数名ハ此ノ病氣ニ患ツタガ死ナナ
カツタ。私達ハ尙ホマラリア、一歳ノ栄養不良ト脚
氣ニ悩ミ續ケテ居タ。此ノ頃ハ私達ハ熱帶潰瘍ノ治
療ヲ覺エ其レヲ創製シタ。此ノキヤンプデ私達ハ第
一ニキヤンプヲ建テル大キナ地面ヲ片附ケル爲ニ使
役サレタ。其レカラジヤングル道路ノ改修工事ヲシ
タ。労働時間ハ朝八時カラ夕方六時迄デアツタ。最
人ノ病人ガ毎日仕事ニ遣レ出サレタ。貧ル者ハ長靴
ガナイ爲素足デ仕事ニ出ナケレバナラナカツタ。私

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這ノ衣服ハ特ニ摩リ切レテキタ。キャンプガ出来上
ツテカラ、オーストラリア人ヘテントニ入ッタガ、
オランダ人ヘ何ノ設備モナイ屋外ニ取り残サレタ。
私達ノ次ノキャンプヘ「キンシオック」デアッタ。
其處ノ所長ハ田中デアッタ。私達ハ十七キロメー
ルヲ行軍シテ一九四三年三月十八日其處ニ到着シ同
年五月一日、二百三十名ノ一團ト一營ニ其處ヲ出發
シタ。私達ハ乾魚ノ少量ヲ貰ッタノデ食事ハ少シ許
リヨクナッタ。然シ其レヘ尙ホモ全然不充分ダツタ
シ、主ニ營養不良ノ爲ニ私達ノ健康ハ低下シ續ケ毎
日弱クナルベカリデアッタ。私達ノ爲ニ設ケラレタ
設備ヘ以前ハ、オランダノ赤痢病院ダツタ。其處デ
ハ排泄物ガ床ニ溜テテ居タ。キャンプデハ多少毆打
ガ行ヘレタ。私達ハ鐵道線路ニ働キニ出タ、ソシテ
此處デ始メテ日本ノ技術者ト出逢ッタ。我々ヘ彼等
ヲ「黒鳥」ト仇名ヲ付ケタ。私ハ鐵道線路迄出カケ
テ行ツテ、労働時間ヲ短縮スルコトハ、病人ガ晝食
時間ニタツタ十分カ二十分シカ休マナイノヲ少クモ
三十分間休養ヲ與ヘルコトニツイテ日本軍ノ將校ニ
話ソウトシタガ、私ハ日本軍ノ將校カラ可ナリ臨ク
シタ。病人ハ管理ニ
私ガ日本

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人カラ受ケタ筈ヘハ、「日本兵病氣デモ働カナケレ
ベナラナインダカラ君ノ部下モ働キオ前ヘモ働クン
ダ。」トイフノデアツタ。私ハ働クノヲ拒絕シ、彼
ニ私ハ其處デ兵隊ヲ監督スル役目ナノダカラ働ケナ
イ。ト言ツタトコロ、其ノ爲ニ私ハ藪歩杖デ摸ラレ
タ。日本人ヘ一日中線路ノ堤ノ上ニ立ツテ居テ、私
選ガ背中デモ停バサウモノナラ其ノ者ヲ目ガケテ石
コロヤ土ヲ投ゲツケタ。

彼等ハ又竹ノ棒デ頭ヲ摸ラレタガ誰モ死ニハシナカ
ツタ。醫療品ハ極度ニ不足シ、私選ハ特別ニ衣料ヲ
供與サレナカツタノデ衣料モ同様不足シテキタ。

私選ノ醫者ト衛生軍官ハ熱帶潰瘍ヲ治療シ得ル事が
出来タガ非常ニ悪性ノ脚氣患者ガ居タソシテ恐ラク
十人ノ者ガ盲ニナリカケタノデ第一線カラ送還サレ
病院ヘ送ラレタ。當時私選ノ一團ニ三百七十名ガ居
タ。

「キンシオツク」カラ私ハ二百三十名ノモノト一結
ニ、川ヲ十キロメートル降ツタトコロニアル「キン
シオツク」第一ジャングル、キャンプヘモウーツノ
ジャングルヲ切り開ク爲ニ出カケタ。私選ハ一九四
三年六月二十日ニ立チ去ツタ。食事ハ常ニ非常ニ少ク、私
選ハ尙モ栄養不良デ健康ヲ害シツマケテ居タ。設備
ハ全ク驚クベキモノデアツタ。私選ハ雨漏リノヒド

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イテントニ二十人乃至二十二人居タ。私達ハ朝七時
カラ夜九時迄働イタ。キャンプニ歸ツタ時暗闇デ食
事ヲシナケレバナラズ是等ノテントヘ行キ天候ノ爲
ニ眠リツクコトガ全ク不可能デアツタ。非常ニ多クノ者ガ病氣ト
ナリ數十名ノ病人ガ毎日無理ニ鐵道線路デ働カサレタ。働ケナイト
模ラレタ。其ノキャンプヲ託サレテ居タ男ハ今ハ死
ンデシマツタカ堀軍曹ト言フ日本人デアツタ。キャ
ンプノ所長ハ尙ホ田中デアツテ彼ガ私達ノ處境ニ對
スル直接責任者デアツタ。私達ハ其處デ一九四三年
七月十一日ニ始メテコレラ患者ヲ出シタ。八人ノオ
ーストラリア人ガ赤痢、マラリア、トコレラデ死亡
シタ。私達ハ此ノキャンプデ五百人ノ英國人ノ一團
ト一緒ニナツタ。彼等ガ到着スル迄其ノキャンプニ
赤痢患者ハ居ナカツタガ不幸ニシテ彼等ガ赤痢ヲ持
ツテ來タノダ。ソシテソレガ私達ノ間デ流行シタノ
ダ。治療品ハ最近迄ノ不足ノ極度ニ達シテ居タ。私
達ハキャンプノ中デハ殆ンド殴打サレナカツタガ技
術者達ハ一日中兵隊ヲ模ツタ。英國人ハキャンプデ
約四十名死亡シ、五百名ノウチカラ三百五十名ノ病
人ヲ送還シタ。全期間ヲ通ジテ私達ノウチ約五十名
乃至六十名ノ者ガ送還サレ兵隊ヲ送還シテ貰フノニ
非常ニ苦勞シタ。私達ハ其ノ事ヲ何時間モ日本人ト
議論スルノデアツタ。其ノ頃兵隊ハ誰モ纏ヒ得ルボ

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口着物ヲ着テ居々。彼等ハ通官ナ着ル物モナケレバ
何ノ服物モツケテ居ナカツタ。新カルガ故ニ彼等ハ
一箱ノ脚腐蝕症ニ罹リ、ソシテ私ハ實際彼等ガ夜キ
ヤンプニ通ヒ戻ルノヲ見タ。其レデモ日云人ハ彼等ガ
働クノヲ止メルコトヲ許サナカツタ。

一九四三年七月二十日ニ鐵道工事ヲ完成スル爲、三
日間「キンシオック」ニ戻ツタ。是ヲ若イ者達ハ名ヅ
ケテ「地獄」ノ三日間ト呼ンダ。彼等ハイツモ鐵道線
路完成ノ爲ニ夜間カラ日暮迄働カサレタ。身働時間
ハ非常ニ長ク病人モ頻りに働カサレタ。彼等ハ鐵
道線路デ働ク爲ニ病院カラ通ヒ出サレサヘシタ。此
ノキャンプデハ七名ガ赤痢トコレラデ死亡シタ。田
中ガ尙直接私達ヲ預ツテ居タ。若兵ハスベテ朝鮮人
デ大勢ノ中デ一若惡カツタ男ハ「氣狂ヒ船頭」ト仇
名サレタ「モルチアマ」デアツタ。身働班ヲ託サレ
テ居タ他ノ若兵ハ瀧山デアリ、又森元キソウデアツ
タ。彼ハ多クノ殴打ノ場合ニ一役ヲ買ヒ、又通常病
人ヲコロスキマヘシタ。彼ハヨク病院ヲ歩キ廻リ病人
ヲ労働ニ驅リ出シタ。彼ハヨク若イ若ラ拳骨ト碎切
レトデ壊リ、ソノ爲ニ彼等ノ眼ガ腫レ上リ、鼻血ガ
出、顔ノ皮膚ガ剥脱シタ。醫藥品ハ極度ニ制限サレ
テキタ。何十人モコレラニ罹ツタ。キャンプハ大

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サレ、約千五百名乃至二千名ノ者ヲ收容スル様ニナ
ツタ。私達ガ其處ヘ歸ツテ來タ時ニハ益ク覺ク可キ
状態デアツタ。泥ガ膝ヲ浸スル位アツタ。

私達ヘ一九四三年七月二十日自船デ「キンシオク」
カラ八十キロメートル上流ノ「クルアン・クライ」
ニ向ケ出發シタ。私達ハ其處ニ一九四三年十二月八
日到着ツテ居タ。其處ノキヤンブニハ百二十名ノオ
ーストラリア人ヲ含メテ千名ノ者ガ居タ。初メノウ
チハ、人々ハ栄養不良ノ爲ニ非常ニ弱マサレテ居タ
ガ、後ニナツテ食事ハ改善サレタ。私達ハ相等度ノ
乾牛ヲ與ヘラレ、毎日幾ラカ肉ヲ食ベタ。其ノ後、
此ノキヤンブノ食事ハ我々が泰國中デ食ベタ最良ノ
食事トナツタ。私達ガ其處ヘ着イタ時ハ雨季ノ絶頂
デアツテ初メノ洪水間ハ絶ヘズズブ濡レデアツタ。
然シ後ニ自分達デ適當ナキヤンブヲ建テタ。テント
ノ床ヲ竹デ作りテントトテントノ間ニ竹デ溝ヲ作ツ
タノデ私達ハキヤンブノ何處ヘ行クニモ地ニ足ラッ
ケズニ行クコトガ出來タ。私達ハ尙モ修造工事ニ従
事シテ居タガ、労働時間ハ其レ程長クナク、以前尙
イタ程ニハ烈シク働カナカツタ。私達ノ中ニハ尙ホ
熱山ノマラリア、普通ノ脚氣、及ビ栄養不良ノ者ガ
居タ。英國人達ハ熱帶瘧疾ニ非常ニ弱マサレ即チ失

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